(c) if so, what steps are being taken to remove this discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Food Corporation of India, in case of Regional and District Offices which are the field formations of the Corporation has reverted back to the earlier system of six day week as difficulty was felt by the Corporation in meeting the requirements of public distribution system in the States.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Storage Capacity of the Food Corporation of India in Kerala

2589. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a big shortfall in the storage capacity of the Food Corporation of India in Kerala as assessed by the Storage Accommodation Committee of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies;

(b) whether any projects for acquisition of godown capacity by the Food Corporation of India in Kerala was sanctioned, if so, what is their progress; and

(c) whether some of the sanctioned projects have been abondoned, if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a), No, Sir. The storgae capacity available with the Food Corporation of India in Kerala is sufficient to meet the present requirement of the State for public distribution system;

(b) and (c) The Food Corporation of India had taken some steps to construct additional storage capacity for holding buffer stocks in Kerala. While the Corporation is going ahead with the completion of storage godowns already under construction in Kerala, a view on construction of further storage capacity in that State would be taken after the Corporation has worked out the State-wise dispersal of the additional storage capacity proposed to be constructed.

Additional storage capacity for FCI

2590. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the plan target for construction of additional foodgrains storage capacity by the Food Corparation of India, State-wise;

(b) whether Kerala has not been sanctioned adequate storage godowns; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) The additional foodgrain storage capacity to be constructed by the Food Corporation of India during the annual plan period 1985-86 is 11.0 lakh tonnes. The State-wise breakdown is given in the staetment enclosed.

(b) and (c) The storage capacity available with the Food Corporation of India in Kerala is sufficient to meet the present requirement of the State for public distribution system.

Statement

State-wise additional storage capacity to be constructed by Food Corporation of India during 1985-86

Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	Storage capacity to be constructed by Food Corporation of India during 1985-86. (In lakh tonnes)
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	1·46
2	Assam	0·05
3	Bihar	0·25
4	Gujarat	1·16
5	Haryana	0·98
6	Jammu & Kashmir	0·02
7	Karnataka	0·30
8	Kerala	0·12
9	Madhya Pradesh	0·53
10	Maharashtra	0·50
11	Manipur	0·02
12	Orissa	0·15
13	Punjab	2·00
14	Rajasthan	0·80
15	Tamil Nadu	0·47
16	Uttar Pradesh	1·41
17	West Bengal	0·32
18	Arunachal Pradesh	0·05
19	Delhi	0·41
	TOTAL :	11·00

Purchase of foodgrains by the Kerala Civil Supplies Corporation

2591. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation was not permitted by the Central Government to go in for direct purchase of foodgrains from surplus States; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) No request has come from the Government of Kerala for the purchase of foodgrains on State Government account from the surplus States during the present season. Permission for inter-State purchase of rice is given, as a special case, after reviewing the supply and demand conditions of the surplus States.

Threats to the Food Corporation of India officials by sellers in Punjab and Haryana

2592. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Food Corporation of India officials deputed in the last season for procurement of foodgrains in Punjab and Haryana were threatened by the sellers for accepting the substandard foodgrains and to certify the inferior quality of foodgrains as superior; and

(b) whether any protection was given to the officials concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir. Such threats were received in case of Punjab only.

(b) The Government of Punjab who were approached in the matter had assured full protection to the Food Corporation of India staff.